

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4054

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

CINCINCEUR FOR POLAD & OSP IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD OPS - AEAGC-COC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS IMMEDIATE

USELMLO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1705

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, GE, WB, UR

SUBJECT: GDR ANNIVERSARY PREPARATIONS: CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS AND POSSIBLE ACCESS PROBLEMS;

REF: BERLIN 1693

1. ANNOUNCEMENT THAT EAST GERMAN PARLIAMENT (VOLKSKAMMER)
WILL AMEND GDR CONSTITUTION CONFIRMS PERSISTENT RUMORS
THAT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES MAY BE ONE OF THE ACTIONS
PLANNED IN CONNECTION WITH FORTHCOMING 25TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ON
SEPTEMBER 26 LISTED CONSIDERATION FO NEW LAW ON "SUPPLE-
MENTING AND AMENDING" CONSTITUTION AS FIRST AGENDA
ITEM FOR SEPTEMBER 27 VOLKSKAMMER MEETING.

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2. OF LIKELY CHANGES IN 1968 CONSTITUTION, MOST OBVIOUS WOULD BE IN ARTICLE 1, WHICH DESCRIBES GDR AS "A SOCIALIST STATE OF THE GERMAN ANTION"--CHARACTERIZATION INCONSISTENT WITH PRESENT GDR VIEWS ON GERMAN NATION AND POLICY OF ABGRENZUNG (SEPARATENESS FROM FRG)--AND REFERENCE IN ARTICLE 8 TO GERMAN REUNIFICATION. OTHER ACTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN RUMORED AS 25TH ANNIVERSARY MEASURES--GIVING FULL VOTING RIGHTS TO EAST BERLIN REPRESENTATIVES TO VOLKSKAMMER, OR EVEN ATTEMPTING TO INCORPORATE EAST BERLIN FINALLY INTO THE GDR-- WOULD NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. PRESENT RESTRICTION ON VOTING, FOR EXAMPLE, IS NOT IN CONSTITUTION BUT IS IMPLIED BY VOTING LAW, WHICH PROVIDES FOR ELECTION OF "434 DEPUTIES" PLUS SENDING OF "66 REPRESENTATIVES" FROM BERLIN--A DISTINCTION STEMMING FROM RETAINED SOVIET RIGHTS AND THE SPECIAL STATUS OF BERLIN. ANY CHANGE IN THIS LAW WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE A PRIOR DECLARATION FROM SOVIETS THAT EAST BERLIN NO LONGER ENJOYS "SPECIAL STATUS." WHILE SHORTNESS OF TIME MAY MAKE SUCH CHANGE AS ONE OF TOMORROW'S "SUPPLEMENTS" TO THE CONSTITUTION DIFFICULT, WE CANNOT IGNORE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS MAY BE ONE OF "AGREEMENTS" REACHED BETWEEN HONECKER AND BREZHNEV IN JUNE (REFTEL).

3. ANOTHER SURPRISE MAY BE RELATED TO CRYPTIC REMARK REPORTEDLY MADE THIS MORNING BY GDR JOURNALIST IN BONN TO NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT CRAIG WHITNEY (PROTECT. AS RELAYED TO TIMES' BERLIN STRINGER WHO IN TURN INFORMED MISSION OFFICER GDR JOURNALIST SAID THAT VOLKSKAMMER WILL BE "EXTREMELY INTERESTING" AND "TOMORROW (I.E. SEPTEMBER 27) WILL BE AN INTERESTING DAY FOR YOU TO BE ON THE AUTOBAHN." THIS COULD BE RELATED TO A POSSIBLE CHANGE OF CHECKPOINT PROCEDURES RESULTING FROM NEW PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS AT MARIENBORN-HEMSTDT CHECKPOINT (REPORTED IN BERLIN'S 1681). WE THEREFORE PLAN TO MONITOR AUTOBAHN SITUATION CAREFULLY TO ASCERTAIN ACTUAL SITUATION AND REPORT PROMPTLY ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS, IF THEY OCCUR.

4. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN
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